
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS ON DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND
NATURAL RESOURCES LANDS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The department of land and natural resources
2 manages public lands including, on Oahu: Diamond Head State
3 Monument, which hosts over a million visitors a year; and
4 Hamakua and Kawainui Marsh Wildlife Sanctuaries, where some of
5 the first Hawaiians are thought to have lived. Neighbor island
6 sites include the Kahulu boat ramp and unencumbered lands along
7 the Honoapiilani highway on Maui; Wailoa harbor, Kailua pier,
8 and parts of downtown Hilo on Hawaii island; and unencumbered
9 lands in Kapaa and Wailua on Kauai. Homeless encampments can be
10 found at all of these places and on other less prominent lands,
11 and the department is responsible for their clean-up, including
12 the removal of waste and other debris that is often associated
13 with their presence. These clean-ups are crucial to restore
14 department lands, to help lessen potential hazards to human
15 health, and to reduce potential damage to public trust
16 resources.



1 In fiscal year 2024-2025, cleaning up after homeless
2 encampments on lands managed by the department of land and
3 natural resources is expected to cost the State approximately \$3
4 million. For fiscal year 2023-2024, the department, with help
5 from the Hawaii department of transportation, cleaned up
6 homeless encampments comprised of approximately two hundred
7 twenty-three people in twenty-four locations on the department
8 of land and natural resources' lands. At least one hundred
9 twenty-nine days were spent cleaning department properties for
10 this purpose. Many of these efforts have occurred as multi-day
11 clean-ups because of the amount of waste and debris or the size
12 of the encampment. For example, at Diamond Head, it takes
13 approximately four days to clean the entire property after the
14 removal of homeless encampments; and for a single clean-up
15 effort in 2024 near Kalihi stream on Oahu, approximately one
16 month of labor cost the department approximately \$1 million,
17 in-part because the number of individuals needed to perform the
18 work was nearly double the number usually needed for a standard
19 large clean-up (e.g., Diamond Head) to approximately thirty-to-
20 fifty individuals each day, and also due to costs such as for
21 renting three forty-foot trash bins per day and dump-site fees.



1 In the past, funding for these clean-ups on department lands
2 statewide was appropriated to the department of human services
3 and then transferred to the Hawaii department of transportation,
4 which handled procurement and management of the work. However,
5 the department of human services did not include funding for
6 statewide homeless encampment cleanups that cover lands managed
7 by the department of land and natural resources in its budget
8 request for fiscal year 2023-2024. The department of human
9 services is not expected to include this funding in its budget
10 requests moving forward. To avoid re-directing crucial
11 operating funds to cover the clean-up costs associated with
12 homeless encampments on its lands, the department of land and
13 natural resources requires additional funds. The purpose of
14 this Act is to provide dedicated funding to the department for
15 this purpose.

16 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
18 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
19 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
20 year 2026-2027 to carry out the purposes of this Act.



1 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
2 of land and natural resources.

3 SECTION 3. Beginning with fiscal biennium 2027 to 2029 and
4 each biennium thereafter, the department of land and natural
5 resources shall include in its annual budget request line-item
6 funding to cover the clean-up costs associated with homeless
7 encampments on its lands.

8 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2050.



Report Title:

DLNR; State Lands; Homeless Encampments; Clean-Ups;
Appropriations

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to cover its work cleaning up after the removal of homeless encampments on state lands under the Department's control. Effective 1/1/2050. (SD1)

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